

REMARKS

Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Objections to the claims

Claims 3, 10, 16 and 21 were objected to for various informalities. Applicant has amended the claims to overcome these informalities, and thus request that the rejection be withdrawn. The Examiner is thanked for the careful review of the claims.

Claims 1, 11 and 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Lanza fame et al. (U.S. 7,006,511). Claims 2-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lanza fame in view of Kuriki (6,850,537). Claims 5, 9 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lanza fame in view of Ramakrishnan.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 6-8 and 17-21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

In the interest only of expediting allowance of this application, and not by way of agreement with the Examiner's rejection, Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claims 5 and 6, and cancelled claims 5 and 6. In addition, Applicant has amended claim 16 to include the limitations of claim 17, and cancelled claims 17. Applicant has also amended independent claim 11 to add subject matter similar to that deemed patentable by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is submitted that all claims are now in condition for allowance. The Applicant reserves their right to address the impropriety of the Examiner's rejections of the claims in a continuation of this application.

Conclusion:

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' Attorney at the number listed below so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date

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